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Nothing better of the kind has been published abroad ; and an American edition of it would be an acceptable contribution to our historical literature.

2. — *An Embassy to the Court of St. James's in 1840.* By F. GUIZOT, Ambassador from his Majesty Louis-Philippe. London : Richard Bentley. 1862. 8vo. pp. 463.

THE English publisher of this volume has given to it the form and title of an independent work, though it is merely a translation of the fifth volume of M. Guizot's *Mémoires de Mon Temps*. This course, however, is not without some justification in the fact that the volume has a real unity of its own, and may without violence be separated from the volumes which have preceded, and from those which may follow it. The book covers a comparatively brief period, and relates to a single episode in its author's life ; but it may be read with pleasure by persons who know and care little or nothing about the Eastern Question, in the discussion of which M. Guizot took so important a share as minister to England. The fourth chapter, for instance, which is entitled "English Society in 1840," and covers about fifty pages, presents a very admirable summary of the impressions produced on the writer by his residence in London, with personal sketches of some of the most conspicuous statesmen and men of letters with whom he was brought into contact in the freedom of private intercourse. Among the most interesting of these sketches are the notices of Lord Holland and Earl Grey, and of Mr. Hallam and Lord Macaulay. To Mr. Hallam, M. Guizot renders the homage of a sincere and cordial admiration. "I never knew a man," he writes, "more sincerely and thoroughly liberal, and at the same time more divested of national prejudice and party spirit ; no one more exclusively anxious to discover truth and to render justice to all, without any thought of pleasing or displeasing adversaries or friends. The natural rectitude of his judgment, his vast and accurate knowledge, the generous devotion of his soul, and his perfect disinterestedness, made him inflexibly just, and a stranger, even in the cause he held most at heart, — that of religious and political liberty, — to every kind of idle speculation or fanaticism." With Lord Macaulay he appears to have been less intimately acquainted, and he scarcely does justice to that great man, though he speaks of him with the respect which his splendid achievements as an essayist and an historian must always command, and gives an interesting account of a visit to Westminster Abbey under his guidance. But it was natural that any one of a nature so cold and

impassive as is that of M. Guizot should be more strongly attracted by such a writer as Mr. Hallam than by Lord Macaulay. In the same chapter there are also interesting notices of Lord Lansdowne, Daniel O'Connell, Mrs. Grote, Mrs. Fry, and of many other persons, beside some well-considered observations on the general character and tone of social life in England. Of Lords Palmerston and Melbourne there is no special portraiture; but the French ambassador readily took their measure, and it is easy to perceive, from the general tenor of his remarks, what is his exact estimate of them. In the introductory chapter he records his first impressions of England, and incidentally, but clearly, points out the relative positions of the aristocracy and the democracy in the English government; and in his third chapter he describes at length the part which he took in settling the quarrel between England and Naples in regard to the exportation of sulphur from the island of Sicily, and the measures adopted to procure the consent of the English government to the removal of the remains of the Emperor Napoleon I. from St. Helena. But the chief theme of M. Guizot's narrative, and that which gives to it its chief historical value, is the Eastern Question, as it was called, growing out of the rival claims of the Ottoman Porte and the Viceroy of Egypt. Of the various negotiations connected with this question, and of the policy of the French government, he presents a very luminous and satisfactory account, with ample citations from the official despatches, and minute records of the conversations held by him with Lord Palmerston and the different members of the diplomatic body in London. Beside the documents cited in the text, there is an Appendix of "Historical Documents," covering about seventy pages. The translation is apparently executed with care; but much of the ease and dignity of M. Guizot's style is lost to the English reader.

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3. — *Irish History and Irish Character.* By GOLDWIN SMITH. Second Edition. Oxford and London: J. H. and James Parker. 1862. 12mo. pp. 197.

THIS essay, which is "an expansion of a lecture delivered before the Oxford Architectural and Historical Society at their Annual Meeting in June, 1861," amply confirms the very high estimate of Professor Smith's depth and vigor of intellect, of his candor and fairness of judgment, and of the soundness of his historical theories, which we were led to form while reading his "Lectures on Modern History," noticed in our last number; and in one respect we have been agree-